

A Good Poultry House

By Lee O. Paddock.

In this number of the COLUMBIAN, we will describe a good, substantial and cheap poultry house, which is especially adapted for the successful housing of poultry in the Lower Miniboro Valley, in and around Columbus.

As the winter months are approaching, care must be taken with regard to the proper housing of poultry, and where houses are already provided, and especially where they are old, care should be taken to see that they are in good condition for the winter months.

Do not allow your birds to roost where they will be subjected to drafts, however slight, as this will produce an epidemic of colds, which if not immediately checked will develop into roup, which is not only contagious, but is one of the most dreaded of poultry diseases, and will very quickly wipe out an entire flock.

Examine your poultry houses carefully and see that there are no crevices where a draft can blow through the house, or over the roofs. It is the overhead draft that is most fatal. Have your houses entirely closed and strictly air-tight at the eaves, leaving a small opening for ventilation. Do not have a leaky roof. See that the roofs are kept absolutely dry when it rains.

The old method of closing the poultry house on all four sides and leaving a door which is also closed at night, is a mistake, and will produce an epidemic of colds as readily as the house with drafts, as the birds, especially when crowded, will become overheated and will raise the temperature of the house considerably above the outside temperatures, and when turned out in the early morning cold air, will take cold. A bird, thus cold is a sick bird, and sick birds do not produce eggs.

For the poultryman who may build a new fioise, be he a city poultryman with a small house on the back of his lot, or the farmer with one or more houses on his farm, the ideal house would be the one commonly called the "open-front poultry house," and is the creation of the southern poultryman, and has proven so popular as the proper method of maintaining healthy birds that the poultryman of the north and east, and in many instances where single poultrymen raise tens of thousands of birds annually, are converting their houses into the "open-front house."

The first thing to be considered is the selection of a site, which must be high and dry, and must not be surrounded by low, damp

ground. The open side need not necessarily face south, but should face directly opposite the prevailing winds, which in this locality would be between south, and south east. The outside walls should be made of one inch boards placed vertically, and the cracks covered with regular battens. The roof should be made of the same material, and the cracks may be covered in the same manner, or, what would be better, cover the entire roof with a good grade of roofing paper. Sides of roof boards should not be over eight or ten inches wide, as the wide boards have greater shrinkage, and are quite likely to split if the nails thereby making every poor house with a short time. If a board does split, treat it as two boards, nailing and battening the new crack.

The roof slope may be nearly flat, a slope of one in eight will be sufficient. Make inside height sufficient to allow the attendant to do his work without stooping. To prevent vermin from getting into the house, take crude petroleum and paint the surfaces of all boards where they joint together, turn nail heads together, and there will be no vermin of any kind, especially the "dose" bug, between boards, as the oil is sticky. One application will last from two to three years when not directly exposed to air currents. When crude petroleum can not be secured, substitute a cheap grade of lead, with about three percent of crude carbolic acid added.

A board should be placed vertically on each side of the open side, and a wire netting placed over the entire front to protect the birds against prowling animals, and on the outside place a curtain made of medium heavy ducking, and the full width of the front overlapping the two vertical boards.

During stormy weather and cold nights the curtain should be lowered and securely fastened down to protect the birds.

A good roost may be made of pieces one and three-quarters inches square or two by four cut in two with the two top edges rounded off, and running from side to side. All placed about 18 inches above the ground. Where roosts are placed on the level, birds will not ever crow by seeking the highest roost. Do not place any roosts at the extreme front, as they will be exposed to the weather. Place roosts about 18 inches apart.

Roosts should be treated with the same solution applied to the boards, to keep down vermin. One or two applications during the winter months will be sufficient, but during the summer months, apply once a month.

A dirt floor is very good and the

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